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From: Burns, Francis
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Subject: Information for HQ

Kathy:

Here's the info with Water Division changes.

Fran

Source Control

On Thursday, January 9, 2014, Freedom Industries in Charleston, WV experienced a leak from a 35,000 gallon tank. The leak of a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, entered the Elk River and entered the water intake of the WV American Water Company. WVDEP ordered the company to remove the tank and take appropriate remediation measures. The facility has emptied the tank and two adjacent tanks, and dug a cutoff trench to capture the chemical before it enters the Elk River. The company also placed boom in the river and around the drinking water intake. The facility is presently investigating the soil under the leaking tank to determine the extent and quantity of subsurface contamination that needs to be collected. The collected chemical is being placed in a vacuum truck for off-site disposal.

Drinking Water

The chemical leak into the Elk River impacted 100,000 customers (estimated 300,00 people) of the WV American Water Company (WVAWC) Kanawha Valley plant. On January 9, the State of West Virginia declared a State of Emergency for nine counties and issued an order not to use the water for any purpose other than toilet flushing and fire fighting. Using available toxicological data, the CDC/ATSDR determined that a concentration of 1 ppm 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) in drinking water would be protective of public health.

As the contaminant source has come under control, levels at the water plant intake have declined. After 24 hours of consistent readings of MCHM < 1 ppm post-treatment, sampling began in the distribution system on 1/11/14. Results indicate that levels in the pressure zone nearest the treatment are below the 1 ppm benchmark, and the Governor and WVAMC announced that, as of Noon today, customers in that zone may resume unrestricted use of water after flushing their homes/buildings. Explicit instructions for flushing premises have been posted at the WVAWC website, <http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html> Sampling and, pending sampling results < 1ppm MCHM, relaxation of the use restrictions will proceed through successive pressure zones in the large and complex water system over the next several days. As many as ten laboratories (those of West Virginia state agencies, WVAMC, National Guard Civil Support and contractors) are processing samples to support the effort.